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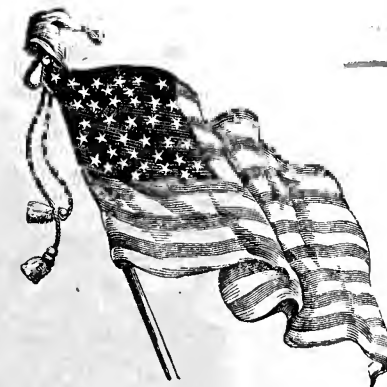
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# LANDRETHS' AMERICAN SEEDS



Seedsman  
to the  
American  
People....

HAVE BEEN  
SOWN

AND NEVER  
BEEN SURPASSED

....IN EXCELLENCE....

...For **III**...  
**YEARS...**

Nos. 21 and 23 S. Sixth St.

**D. Landreth  
& Sons.**

Philadelphia.

They can be obtained by Gardeners

- 1st.—Through Local Merchants.
- 2d.—By Express at moderate rates.
- 3d.—By Mail at low postage.

...No Order is too small.  
is too much trouble.





[NOTE.—The following is a brief of history prepared for the Association of Centenary Firms and Corporations of the United States, an organization of the thirty-five business houses in this country established over 100 years ago, and yet conducted by the same family. The Association was conceived and to a large extent organized by one of the members of this firm, who is also its President.]

## DAVID LANDRETH & SONS, Seed Farmers and Merchants, PHILADELPHIA.

**1784** The Landreth nursery and seed business was established in Philadelphia in 1784. Its founder was David Landreth, born 1752, near Berwick-on-Tweed, son of a Northumberland farmer, who had, in England, applied himself to the business of tree growing. He emigrated to Canada in 1781, shortly after removing to Philadelphia. About 1786 he associated his brother Cuthbert in the business of seed and tree culture. The first place of business was on High Street, the exact position now being covered by the buildings 1210 and 1212 Market Street, then a location well out in the country. Contiguous land was rented for nursery and seed growing purposes, the largest section being a tract at the intersection of Twelfth and Filbert Streets.

The original firm designation was David Landreth. The Landreth nursery and seed garden in the "Neck," a long and narrow tongue of land lying between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers on the south of Philadelphia, was established in 1789 on rented land. The following year a portion of the tract was purchased, and an adjoining tract purchased in 1798.

**1798** In 1798 the firm title was David & Cuthbert Landreth. The first partner resided at Twelfth and Market Streets, at which place David Landreth, Jr., was born in 1802. The other partner lived at the nursery. The old mansion house on the nursery grounds, a roomy building, which was in time embowered in vines and so surrounded by rare shrubs and trees as to become one of the show places of Philadelphia, was, in 1847, sold to the school-board of Philadelphia, and altered to meet the requirements of public education. It was designated as the Landreth School, subsequently burned and a new building erected.

From the Landreth nurseries were drawn many of the matured specimens of fine trees which now embellish the old country-seats around Philadelphia.

**1800** Fine examples of these trees are to be seen in the oldest ashes, elms, birches, oaks, and buttonwoods of Washington and Independence Squares, these being planted about the beginning of the century. In 1808

**1808** David & Cuthbert Landreth conducted business at three locations—at the seed store on Market Street, near Twelfth Street; at the southeast corner of the old court-house; at the nursery, near the United States Arsenal.

**1810** About 1810 a seed store was established on Second Street, below Market.

**1818** In 1818 a branch was established in Charleston, S. C. Subsequently, the property Nos. 351 and 353 King Street was purchased, and the business continued until the real estate and merchandise were confiscated, April 22, 1862, by order of the District Court of the Confederate States.

**1820** In 1820 a tract was purchased and used as a seed farm on Fifth Street, below Federal. The mansion house on this tract was built in Colonial style, and surrounded by many fine trees of pine and linden, was widely known as "Garlic Hall," so named after an old English estate.

Shortly subsequent to 1820, the premises then No. 85 Chestnut Street were occupied as a seed store, afterwards removed to No. 83, and again to No. 65, which latter location was purchased in 1852, when an iron and brick warehouse, large for that day, was erected and occupied, its present number being 221.

In 1828 David Landreth, Jr., and Thomas Landreth, son of Cuthbert, took the business from their respective fathers, David, Jr., taking the seed department, and Thomas the nursery.

In 1836 the title was David Landreth & Co., the firm consisting of David Landreth, Jr., Thomas Landreth, and J. W. Burrows.

David Landreth, 1st, died in 1836.

In 1837 Thomas Landreth reconveyed the nursery to David Landreth, Jr., and the seed and nursery branches were again united.

In 1843 the title of the firm was David Landreth & David Landreth Munnis.

In 1845 the firm title was David Landreth, Seedsman, and David Landreth & Fulton, Nurserymen.

In 1847 Bloomsdale farm, Bristol, Pa., was purchased and devoted to seed crops. This tract consists of 500 acres, with several auxiliary tracts in other States.

In 1848 David Landreth, Jr., sold the nursery to James D. Fulton, retaining the more important seed division.

In 1853 the premises Nos. 21 and 23 S. Sixth Street were purchased, and a warehouse built, since occupied as a seed store. At this date there was established at Bristol, Pa., a factory for making mowing and reaping machinery, hay rakes, and power corn shellers.

In 1854 a branch seed store was established at St. Louis, Mo., and continued six or seven years.

In 1860 the firm title was changed to D. Landreth & Son, by the entry of Mr. Oliver Landreth.

In 1876 the title of the firm was again changed to David Landreth & Sons.

In 1880 David Landreth, 2d, died. He was an agriculturist of rare experience and ability—a rapid, pleasing writer on rural topics. In 1827 he was one of the founders, and in 1828, and the seven years following, the Corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the mother of all similar societies in the United States.

In 1856 he was chosen President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, founded 1785, from which sprung every other agricultural society in the nation. He was Vice-President of the United States Agricultural Society, and an active member of a number of similar organizations. His firm was one of the first manufacturers of mowing and reaping machines in the United States. In 1871 and 1872 they made thorough experiments in steam plowing by direct traction, and in 1885 in steam digging, and subsequently in steam chopping. Extensive forest planting in Virginia was undertaken by the firm in 1872, and has since been continuously conducted.

The business is carried on under the title adopted in 1876, the partners being Oliver Landreth, Burnet Landreth, Leopold Landreth. It is that of growing and selling field, vegetable and flower seeds, in both domestic and foreign markets.

Many of the employes of the firm have been with it for a life-time, and among its customers are hundreds for fifty years and many for a longer period; Leadbeater & Co., of Alexandria, Va., have been annual wholesale purchasers of Landreth's Seeds since the year 1792.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Rear view of Stone Warehouse No. 1.**—Two hundred feet long, forty feet wide, three stories in height. Potato and Onion cellar beneath. The vines upon the building are English and Japanese Ivy. The trees in foreground being English and Irish Yews, Retinespora, Sciadopitys, Arancaria, Cunninghamia, Cryptomeria and other rare varieties. The arboretum at Bloomsdale, consisting of rare specimens of American and foreign trees, comprises many of larger development than can be found elsewhere in the United States.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Storehouse No. 1.**—In the street two large canvas-covered freight wagons, such as are used for transferring seeds between the different warehouses. On right Printing-House Building No. 3.





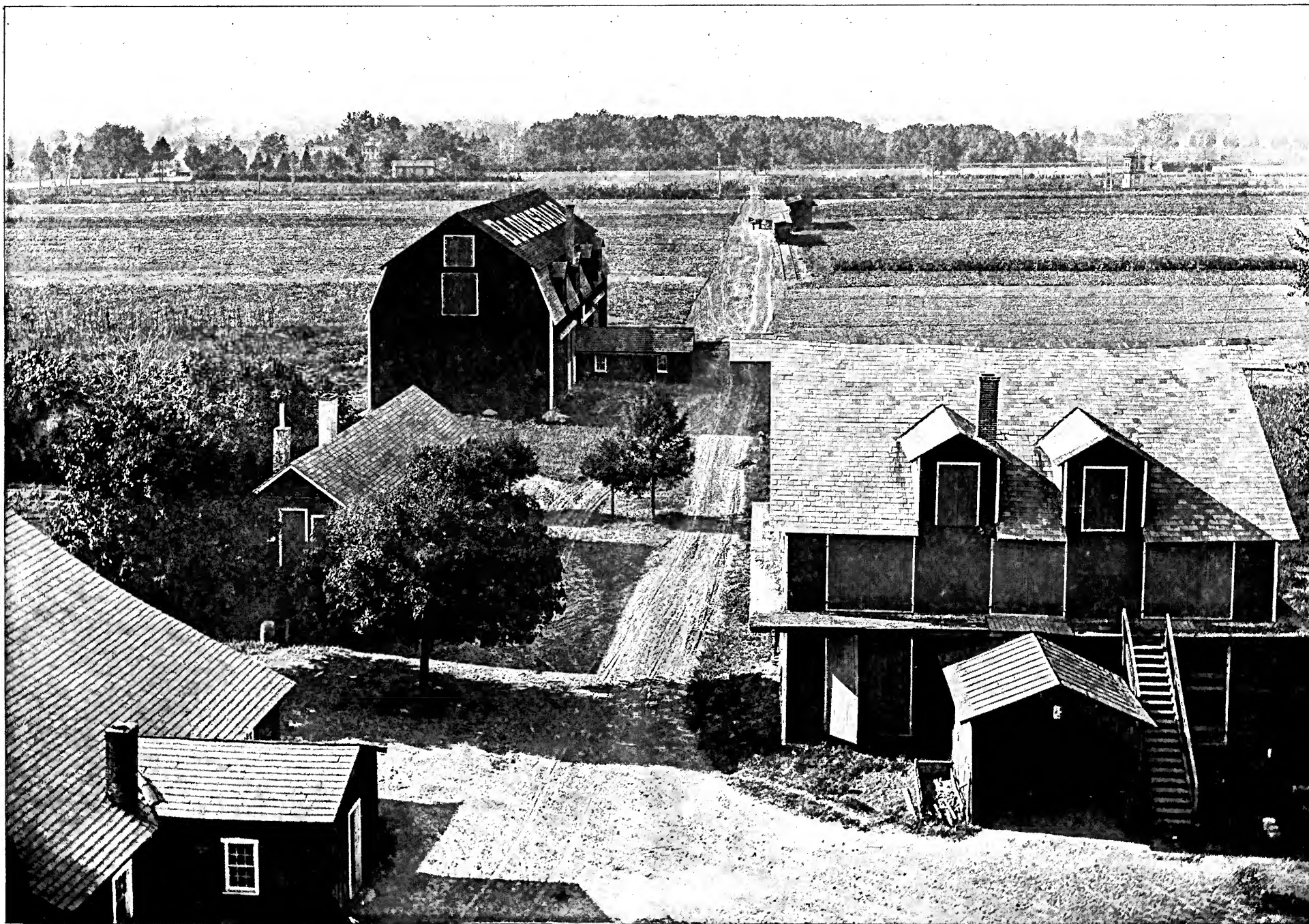
**BLOOMSDALE FARM.**—Looking south from No. 7 Barn. On right a pile of Onion Trays and Barns Nos. 6 and 5 and Printing Office No. 3. On the left a Seed Drier, Wheelwright and Blacksmith Shop, Implement Shed, Tenant House, Corn Crib, Stone Storehouse with belfry. The bell announces the hours of labor—ten hours per day. In the distance Stone Warehouse No. 1 and Farm Office. The Stone Warehouse No. 2, with bell, was erected in 1807. It is 100 feet long, forty feet wide, five floors high, with Potato cellar beneath.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM.** View from Belfry of Stone Warehouse No. 2, showing Barns Nos. 5, 6 and 7.—This last has a capacity to contain twenty acres of Cabbage before threshing. Saw Mill and Box Factory on right. Corn Crib and Onion Set Shed on left. General view of a portion of the farm showing white posts marking the headlands. Tenant Houses in distance, of which there are thirty. The Seed Drying Houses, though of wood, are all heavily timbered and supported upon brick foundations, and are each enabled to sustain the weight of many thousands of bushels of the heaviest seeds. Used during the summer as Drying Houses, they are in winter used for the storage of Peas, Beans, Corn and every other seed on the list. The storage facilities in the various buildings of this establishment could not be obtained in a city. Seeds can be kept sufficiently concentrated yet apart.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM.** Barns Nos. 3, 4, 8. Pea Picking House No. 20. Away on left Bloomsdale School House. In distance private siding from Penna. R. R., Philadelphia and New York Division. Private station for receiving and shipping.—The Pennsylvania R. R. runs for over a mile through the centre of the farm along the line marked by the telegraph poles and signal tower. The crops in front of the signal tower represent a stand of Radish ready for harvesting. To the left beyond the big barn is a crop of Cabbage which will develop heads by Autumn. These headed plants are not sold as would be the course in market gardening, but are kept over winter and set out in spring to bloom in May and ripen seed in July.





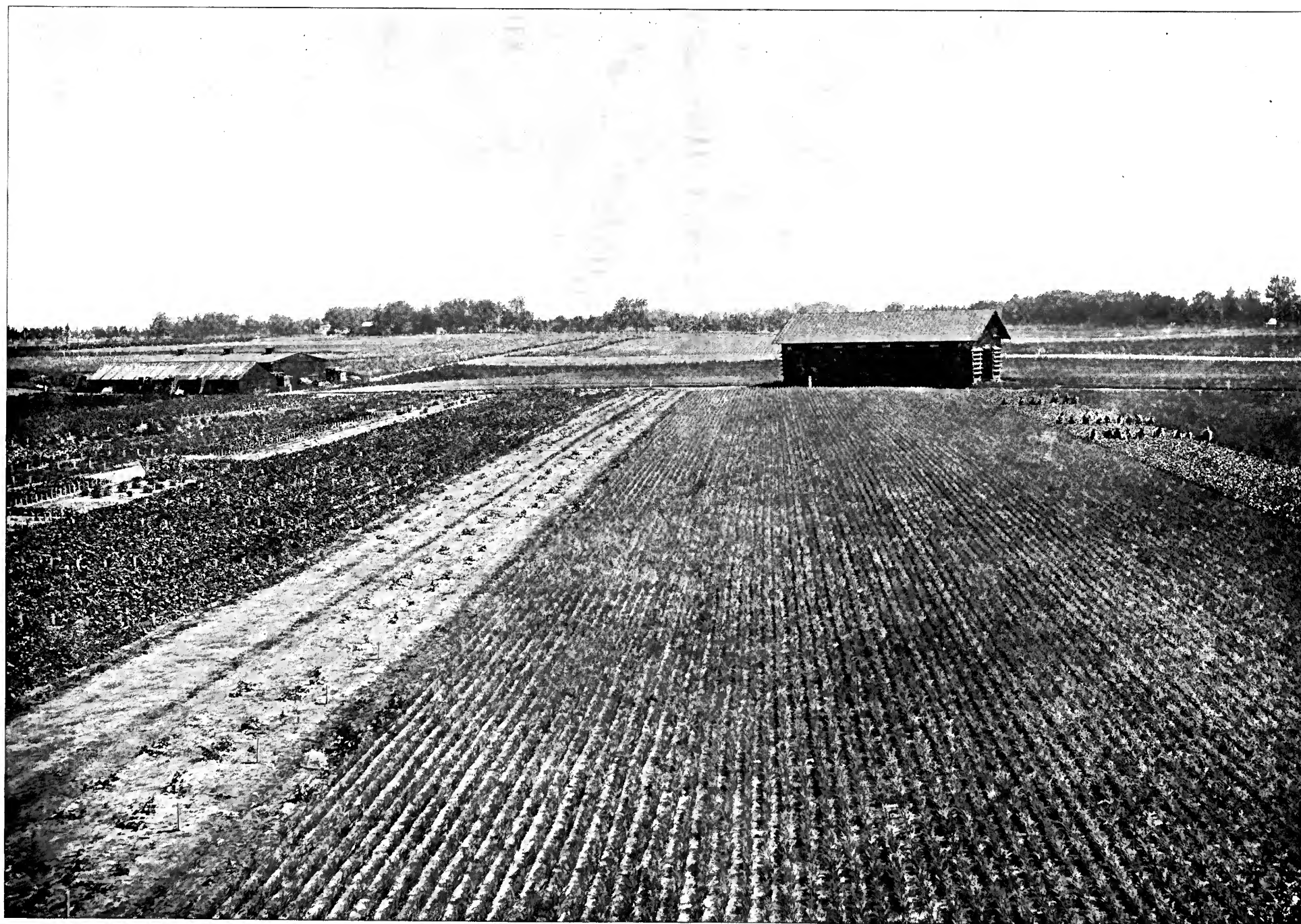
**BLOOMSDALE FARM.**—Looking north up the street towards the Wheelwright Shop. On right a Tenant House. A wagon loaded with Onion Set Trays, of which there are 7000 on the farm. Further on Implement Shed, Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shops; Cooperage Shop. At these machine shops are made every wagon and cart used upon the farm; also seed drills, fanning mills, threshers, plows and cultivators, rollers, and much machinery particularly adapted to the special culture of this Firm, and of no interest to others.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Weeding Beets.**—Our Beet culture comprises about 100 acres annually. Fifteen months elapse between the drilling of the seed and a resulting crop of seed. The buildings on left are Drying Houses Nos. 5, 6 and 7, and Box Factory in distance, at which place are made the packing boxes for seed shipments. The Drying Houses have eight floors of scaffolding, upon which are placed the various crops of seed in the straw before threshing. The numerous doors and windows being opened in fine weather, a free circulation of air is obtained, which rapidly cures the seed previous to threshing, which is done by steam, four engines being used, sometimes all at work simultaneously. The piles of trash behind the barns are the straw of crops already threshed. After each crop has been cured and threshed, the scaffold boards are all taken down and afterward taken out of the building, as shown in the illustration. The buildings are divided by partitions into distinct sections that several sorts may be stored under same roof. Each building between first of June and first of October is filled and emptied from ten to twenty times with successive crops. After that, they are turned into storehouses for the winter and are filled with peas, beans, corn and other seeds in stock.





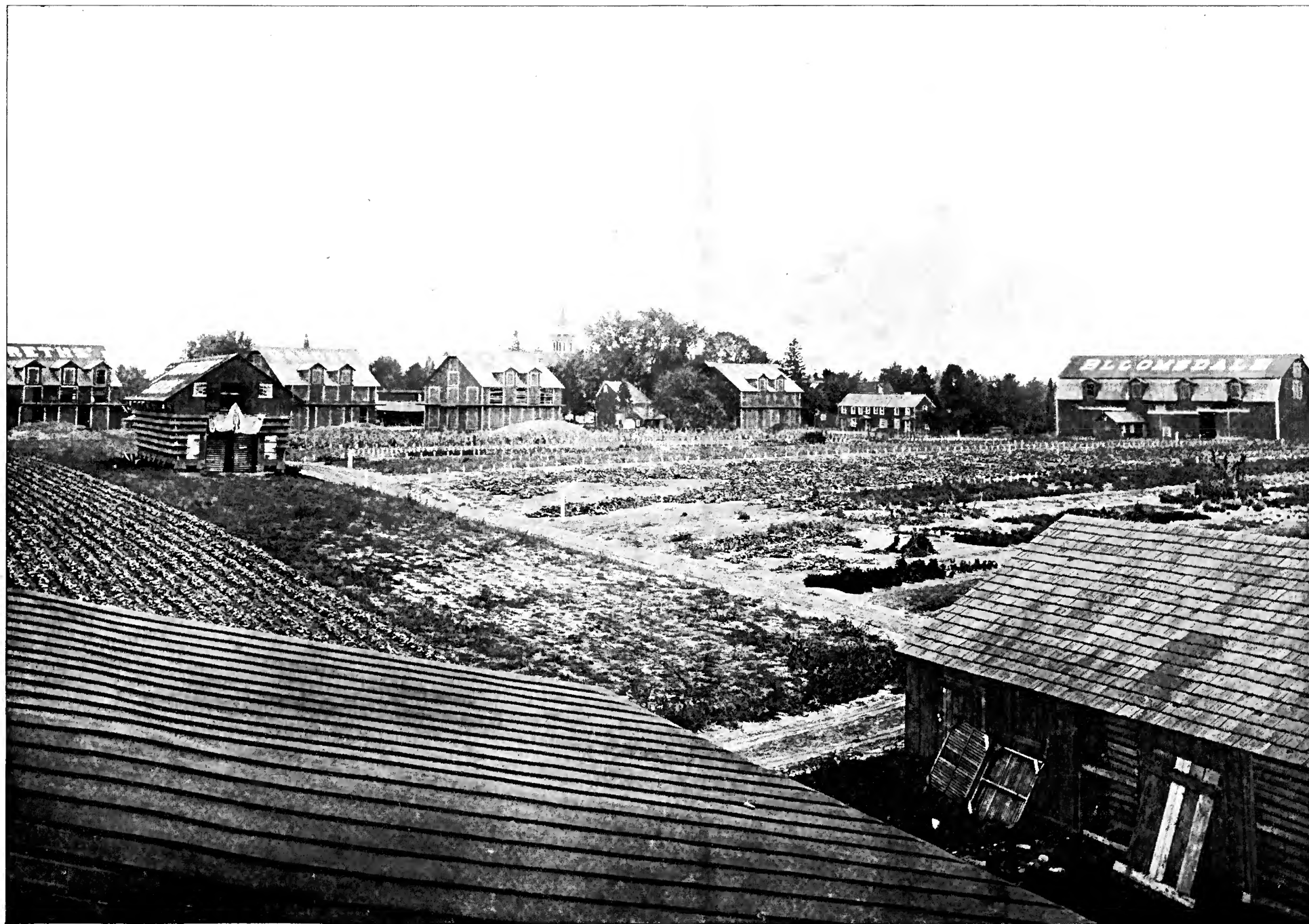
**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Looking North.**—A general view of the northeast section of the Farm. Building No. 32 in the front. To the left Onion Set Sheds, with piles of Onion crates and a partial view of Experimental Grounds. Tenant Houses in distance. A crop of Onion Sets in the foreground. A group of laborers weeding Cabbage in Seed Bed. Beyond the Onion Sheds a crop of Cabbage; to the right a crop of Spring Radish.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Looking East.**—In foreground tracks of Pennsylvania R. R. running through the farm for over a mile and cutting it into two halves. In foreground a narrow section of Onions in the seed head, and beyond a gang of men weeding Onion Sets. The sheds in the distance being for Onion Set storage and of a capacity of 15,000 bushels. Building on right Corn Crib, beyond it Saw Mill and Box Factory. Still beyond, the river Delaware, at a point 130 miles from the sea. On its other side the State of New Jersey.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM.**—In distance Warehouse No. 2, with belfry, and Seed Drying Houses Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Pea Picking House, Tenant House, Corn Crib No. 32. Onion Sets Sheds in foreground. Portion of a plot of Trial Grounds in the distance. On the left a crop of Cabbage. No. 8 Drying House, the one marked Bloomsdale, has a capacity to hold fifty acres of Cabbage straw before threshing, or in winter upon the ground floor storage room for 20,000 bushels of Peas. It contains a twenty-horse steam engine, powerful pea-sifting machinery and mills for grinding bone for superphosphate, or corn for cattle feed.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Landreths' Siding.**—On left private railroad station, locomotive and freight cars loading up with Onion Sets and other goods. On right Drying House No. 7. In the foreground a crop of Beets very thin upon the ground. From this siding four or five cars are often dispatched daily. A portion of the purchased stable manure is received by cars on this siding, a very central location, other portions being delivered by canal boat on the back of the farm, and still other portions by flat boats landing on the Delaware River shore in front of the farm. The river here is over half a mile wide, and navigable for large steamboats and sea-going vessels.





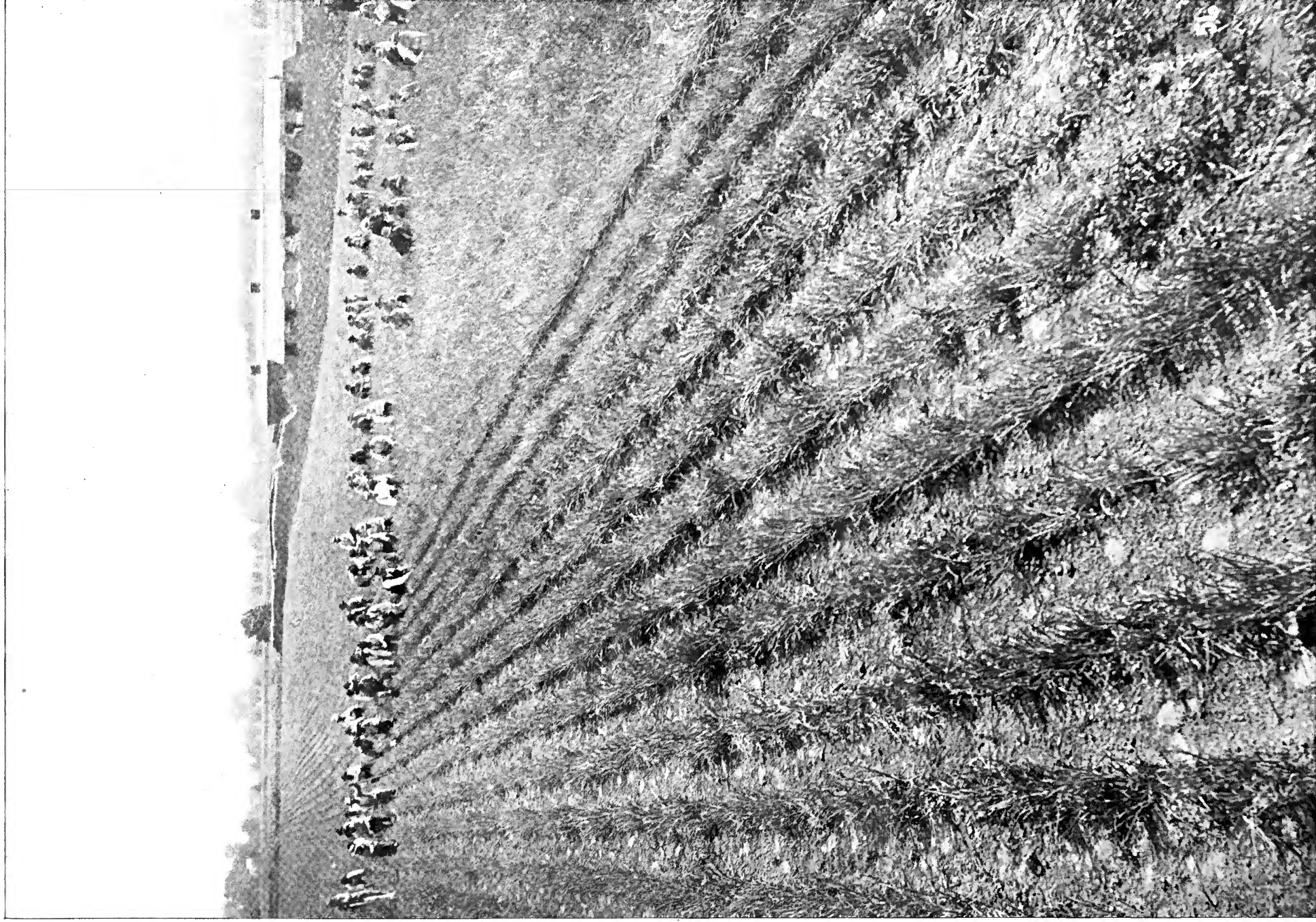
**BLOOMSDALE FARM—TRIAL GROUNDS.** A view of a portion of one of the Experimental Plots showing the system of labeling.—Nine to ten acres are annually devoted to such trials in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia. These field tests sometimes reaching 5000 a year, comprise not only the seeds grown upon the various farms of the Firm, but also the so-called novelties offered every year by enterprising seedsmen.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM.**—Looking down from near the Farm Freight Station, showing part of the railroad siding in foreground and Seed Houses in distance. The building with the belfry being a large stone structure erected in 1807, the largest farm structure of the kind in the State. On left is a patch of Tomatoes very thin upon the ground, beyond, one of the plots of seeds on trial.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Weeding Onion Sets.**—On these farms as much as 8000 pounds of Onion Seed has been drilled for the purpose of growing Onion Sets. To care for such a large force of farm laborers is required, as many as 250 men sometimes engaged in the working of the crop, seventy-two men being represented in the gang shown in the picture. The buildings in distance are Onion Set Sheds, and the objects racked up are Onion Set Trays.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Southwest Section. CABBAGE.**—In the foreground a crop of Cabbage almost ready to harvest, the seed-bearing plants standing three to four feet high. In the distance the Bloomsdale School.

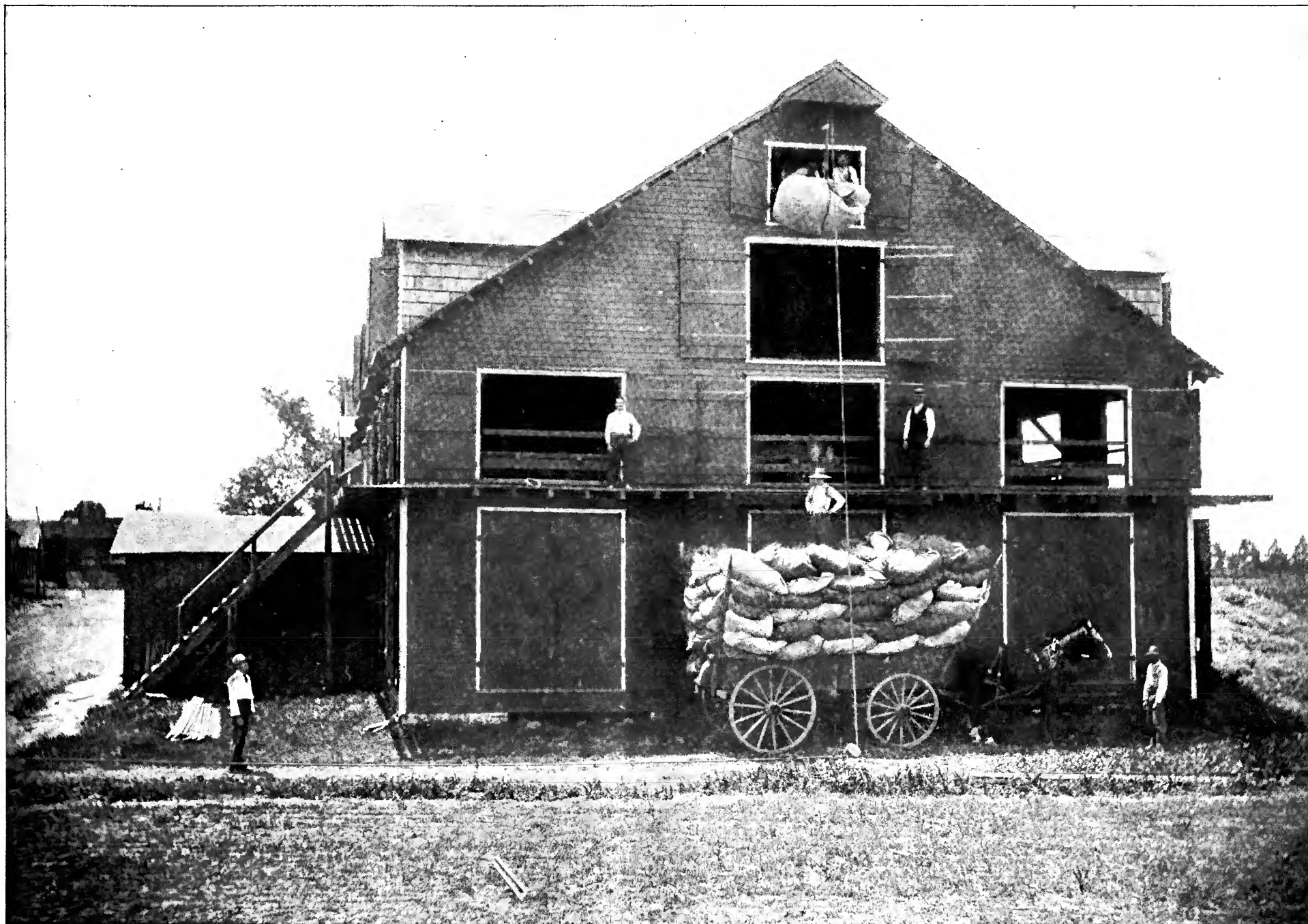
Cabbage Seed growing is an important branch of the farm operations, over 200 acres being frequently in crop. The seed is thickly drilled in beds in close rows middle of April, and in July and August transplanted to the fields, being placed in rows at two and a half feet apart and one foot in the row. These plants, in October and November, are taken up and bedded for preservation throughout the winter, and in spring set out again to stand till harvest in July. Fifteen months elapse between sowing the seed and the harvest.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM.** Cutting Cabbage Seed along the line of the Penna. R. R. The plants grown upon ridges bloom in May and pod, and in July when nearly thoroughly ripe are cut with sickles and, as shown in the illustration, placed in sheets, which sheets, when filled, are tied by the four corners and loaded upon wagons for transportation to the Drying Houses to be spread out to complete the ripening. Fifteen months' time elapses between the date of drilling Cabbage seed and its production of seed; this extension of time greatly increasing the risk of injury by heat and cold, hail or insects. Frequently the heads if sold in the autumn would have brought twice the cost value of the seed saved by reason of subsequent destructive conditions reducing the product.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Unloading Cabbage Seed at Barn No. 7.**—The hulm tied up in sheets, as described on the preceding page, is hauled from the field to the Seed House and hoisted by power to the various scaffoldings, where the sheets are untied and the hulm spread out to dry for three or four days before passing to the steam thresher, after which the broken straw is passed out at the rear door as shown in the pile on right. The crop in the foreground is a piece of Onion Sets.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Northwest Section.**—An Onion crop in the Seed Head. Rows five feet apart and 500 feet long. The seed balls being supported upon stems four feet high, each ball being composed of about one hundred capsules, each containing four seeds. Many capsules fail to mature, the range of product being from one hundred to three hundred pounds to the acre. This crop is grown from large onions of edible size, and is a very expensive and uncertain one to grow, because of the uncertainty of realizing a profitable return of seed. It will be noticed this crop has just been earthed up by a double mould-board plow, the object being to support the fragile seed stalks. On Bloomsdale Farm the breadth planted has frequently been seventy acres. The large trees in distance are American White Oaks—grand specimens. Crop to left is one of Cucumber in the early stage, vines covering the ground.





**BLOOMSDALE FARM. Cutting Turnip Seed.**—The straw as cut by men with sickles is placed on sheets six feet square, which are tied by the four corners and loaded on hay wagons. In the picture are three such wagons in the foreground, and in the far distance two others being loaded up. The photograph taken was of a very thin and poor crop, but it illustrates the subject. Turnip seed is sown in July and August; the roots are fully grown by October, when they are pulled up and bedded for the winter. In April they are set out, and in May they bloom and ripen seed in July, thus taking eleven months to produce a crop.





**UPPER GRANVILLE FARM.**—This picture shows the breadth of cultivation on this plantation, the fields being, many of them, 500 yards long. The crop in the foreground is Southern or Creole Collards. The crops in the distance are Winter Radish, Parsnip, Kale and Spinach.





**UPPER GRANVILLE FARM. Seed Barn No. 5.**—One hundred and twenty feet long by forty feet wide and sixty feet high. Capacity, fifty acres of Collards, or more of Turnip. On right and left eight seed drying Louses of a drying capacity of 300 bushels. Crop in foreground Bloomsdale Double Extra Curled Kale. In distance Winter Radish.





**MONASKON FARM. Seed Barn No. 4.**—On left one of the steam engines used for threshing. Seed Drying Houses on right and negro farm hands, both male and female, of whom sometimes two hundred are frequently on the pay roll. In foreground a crop of Beet in the seed stalk, and to the left in distance a crop of Tomatoes.





**UPPER GRANVILLE FARM.**—Seed Barn No. 3. Seed Drying Houses on left, showing style of engines used for all work. Negro field hands, male and female; wagons of two of the superintendents. The trees in the background are of Scotch Larch, Southern Cypress and other varieties, planted for the making of an artificial forest. The ground in front and to the right has just had a crop taken off; to the left in front is a crop of *Trifolium incarnatum*. In the distance to the right a crop of Tomatoes, to the left a crop of Watermelons.





**REEDLAND FARM. Burlington County, New Jersey.**—This farm is situated on the banks of the Delaware river. The soil is very sandy and consequently very early. It is a Model Farm. View of fields upon which are resting 1000 drying trays loaded with **ONION SETS**, two bu-hels to the tray. These trays are cocked up in pairs to admit of better circulation of air. The effect is like a military camp under shelter tents. Barns in distance. The conical trees along fence lines are red cedars. The crop in the foreground to the left is of Landreths' Egg Plant. In the distance to right crops of Beet and Okra.



# PENNSYLVANIA SEEDS.

No broad district in the United States is so well adapted to the perfection of such numerous varieties of Vegetables and their Seeds as that comprised within a radius of *one hundred miles* around Philadelphia. As a consequence of this, Philadelphia Garden Seeds have always been and always will be unsurpassed in quality and unequalled in range of development of form, texture and flavor. Eastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware and southern and central New Jersey are all comprised within the one hundred mile radius mentioned. To be more exact, it comprises in Pennsylvania the beautiful and productive counties of Delaware, Montgomery, Lancaster, Chester and Bucks, all contiguous to Philadelphia, districts celebrated for their fine-bred cattle, splendid pasturage, choice dairy products, immense stone barns, painted and whitewashed homesteads, and beyond the Quaker State the district comprises all of the State of Delaware, one-half of the State of New Jersey, the whole being the greatest Truck producing section of the United States in the volume produced, and by reason of its proximity to the great cities of Philadelphia and New York, permitting of putting the products into market before they wilt, thus commanding the highest price, and greatly enhancing the profit to the grower.

These sections are little subjected to radical climatic or atmospheric changes, the tornadoes, cloud bursts and extended drouths of the West are here comparatively unknown; grasshoppers and other insect pests are not allowed to gain a footing within these highly cultivated districts.

The following extract from the Census Report of 1890, shows how far the section here under consideration exceeds any other, in fact, how it is almost equal to one-half all the others combined, being as 21 to 54:

	ACRES.	VALUE OF PRODUCTS.		ACRES.	VALUE OF PRODUCTS.
Total . . . . .	534,440	\$76,517,155	South Atlantic . . . . .	111,441	\$13,183,516
New England . . . . .	6,838	\$ 3,184,218	Mississippi Valley . . . . .	36,180	4,982,579
Philadelphia . . . . .	108,135	21,102,521	Southwest . . . . .	36,889	4,979,783
Peninsular . . . . .	25,714	2,413,648	Central . . . . .	107,414	15,432,223
Norfolk . . . . .	45,375	4,092,859	Northwest . . . . .	1,083	204,791
Baltimore . . . . .	37,181	3,784,696	Mountain . . . . .	3,833	531,976
			Pacific Coast . . . . .	14,357	2,024,345

Seed growing as a co-relative of vegetable culture has for over one hundred years been an established pursuit in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and this city still continues to be the centre of the Seed Trade, both as respects the volume of seed produced in the surrounding country and the volume sold by her seed merchants.

Seeds of all varieties of vegetables cannot, however, be profitably grown in the Middle States, in some cases because the climate favorable for the development of the vegetable is not suitable to ripen *profitable* quantities of seed, and in other cases because of our high-priced labor, twice as costly as that of Europe, but thanks to the climate, a larger proportion of the seeds of esculent vegetables can be grown to perfection in this district than in any other, as has been demonstrated by actual seed-growing for a century, Philadelphia-grown seeds being accepted as the unit of comparison. The few varieties which cannot be profitably grown in the Philadelphia district are saved in other localities, and the capable seedsman knows just where to go to get the best results, if necessary, to the ends of the world, no matter how far, so a locality is found especially adapted to the perfection of the seed he wants.

The capable seed merchant of this day must be not only a man of commercial experience, but a man of such technical qualifications and application as to place him among the class of most intelligent merchants, while the advanced *seed grower* conducting operations in various States and working confronted with the diverse influence of distinct soils and climates, must be a student of vegetable physiology, critically observant of causes and effects as connected with the chemistry of plants, their hybridization and the fecundation of soils, and at once take rank in the most advanced class of agriculturists.

We claim that we always have been, and are now, the largest producers of Garden Seeds *on our own lands* in the United States. Our annual crops of Turnip, Cabbage, Beet, Radish, Kale, Parsnip, Okra, Pepper, Tomato, Onion Sets, and some particular sorts of Spinach, Cucumbers, Melons, Peas, Beans and Corn are greater in area, both specifically and in the aggregate, than cultivated by any other seed-growing firm in America. Seeds

of other families of esculent vegetables, not above enumerated, are grown on our own lands to a more limited extent, the whole grown on a total of over eighteen hundred acres in three separate States, this area comprising the farms held in fee and on which we pay taxes. To these are added a still larger acreage with neighboring farmers, who are supplied with stock seeds, all the carefully selected product of our home farms. It need hardly be said that the selection of the localities and men to grow outside crops and the responsibility of inspection of growing crops, is a subject of the utmost importance, nor need it be stated that of still greater importance is the work performed on the home farms, the culling of all crops and the intense selection of the plants from which to save seed to be sown the following year at home or be given out for growing on contract. If purchasers of seeds could observe the contrast between our methodical system of growing, selecting and saving seeds and the slipshod, no-system, mis-management of the producers of cheap seeds, they would be willing to pay us three prices.

We are strong believers in heredity, and endeavor to grow from seed of fixed habit. Our intensely careful selections of many years have established types which are almost fixed, and we justly call them "Pedigree Seeds."

Heredity is most fixed when plants are cultivated upon the soil and under the climatic surroundings of their place of origin, while on the other hand, very radical departures are made when the same plants are grown under changed conditions of soil and climate. This is noticed in the enlarged and coarse development of Cabbage grown in Oregon or California from Pennsylvania seed, or in the deterioration of the edible qualities of Watermelons grown in the South from New Jersey seed. Any Eastern seed taken to the Pacific slope will, in a few years, so depart from its original type as to be hardly recognizable under its original name. The most marked effect of soil and climate is on some of the vegetables of Japan, many of which are products of Landreth's Seed sent to Japan by the United States Patent Office on the occasion of the expedition of Commodore Perry to Japan, in 1847. Those seeds were the first of the kind ever introduced into that Empire. We have since received and tested many Japanese seeds of vegetables bearing what we have taken to be a trace of the original American parentage.

As respects heredity and the art of crossing two or more varieties whose superior qualities, if united, would be desirable, much has been accomplished, and in the future various astonishing results will, no doubt, be developed, for the number of hybridizers, all working out different lines, will certainly produce a multitude of interesting results. While the greater part, however, of so-called new sorts are the results of chance admixture in the field, the seed grower is now ceasing to be a mere plodder-on in the steps of his ancestors, but is entering into his work physiologically, if not scientifically, and the work of the hybridizer is now so multiplying varieties and sub-varieties as to confound the unintelligent seed planter. While the meritorious alone will stand the test and be perpetuated, other inferior subtypes will be offered under most descriptions never to be heard of again. The best opportunities for hybridizing are in the crossing of domestic plants with others of like nature from remote sections of the world, resulting in most striking development, and generally most healthful constitutional qualities.

We desire to put on record our decided preference for American-grown seeds obtained from the best sources, and undoubtedly Philadelphia Seed has the best all-round reputation.

Philadelphia Seeds are to be preferred all the time to European Seeds, as being better ripened, and consequently more vital, and as grown by a more intelligent and trustworthy class of cultivators, for however honorable European seed merchants of the cities may be, the peasant growers with whom they deal are in general most tricky and unreliable.

Fortunately, by reason of our large production of Seeds upon our 1800 acres of own farm land, and by reason of contracts with neighboring farmers and others more distant, we rely very little upon imported seeds, not one-twentieth of our sales being of European growth, but nineteen-twentieths American. The cautious gardener will always purchase American Seeds in preference to European. Pennsylvania is a great State in many respects, and one of its notable productions for a century has been Garden Seeds suitable for sowing in all climates.

The gardener who sows Pennsylvania Seeds takes the best of all possible precautions, for he gets an American article with a vigorous American constitution, as it has been grown under the best of conditions. We try to be American in all things, and ask the support of Americans to help us disseminate American Seeds.



# A Virginia Seed Farm.

In 1869 David Landreth & Sons, the world-wide known Merchants and Seed Farmers of Philadelphia, established a Vegetable Seed Growing Farm on tide-water Virginia, purchasing for that purpose a plantation of about 1000 acres not far from Norfolk. This acreage, immediately thereafter, they extended to about 5000 acres by the purchase of other tracts, mostly in timber. They have been selling the lumber, ties, piling and cord-wood, and on cleared land planting artificial forest.

The operations of Seed Growing in Virginia instituted twenty-five years ago, then an experiment, proved under the persistence of the proprietors through many difficulties and set-backs—enough to deter less resolute men—both practical and profitable, resulting in the organization of by all odds the largest and most completely furnished Seed Growing Establishment south of the Potomac. A Seed Farm, in its annual acreage of vegetables grown for seed, unexampled in the Southern States or anywhere else in the United States except on the 600 acre home farm of the Landreths, Bloomsdale, Pennsylvania. This Virginia farm is a model one indeed in its administration, in its orderly system of culture, in its well-designed buildings, and in the beauty of its position.

The continuance of such an establishment for twenty-five years clearly indicates that it is organized to stay, and demonstrates that general Seed Growing can be practically pursued in Northeastern Virginia.

The agricultural people of its locality are indebted to the Landreths for steps forward in the diversification of farm crops and practical illustrations of new systems of tillage and cultivation, and for profitable methods of making and saving farm manure and advantages of its application, all showing how the soil of the Old Dominion can be rejuvenated and the State turned into a garden if worked by unceasing application and under new processes. Market Gardening in tide-water Virginia is the way out of its agricultural depression, but, of course, transportation facilities need to be more generally provided in advance to encourage planting of vegetables and fruits.

The firm of Landreth was the first and is yet the only Northern Seed House which has established a Seed Farm south of the Potomac. The Landreths, whose seed business was founded in 1784, have for over a century been identified with the agriculture of the South. For example, they have been continuously furnishing the firm of Leadbeater & Co., of Alexandria, Va., with seeds since 1794, a record of stability highly creditable to both firms.

In 1818 the grandfather and great-grandfather of the present Landreths established a branch seed store at Charleston, South Carolina, from which were distributed the best Garden and Field Seeds of that day. This Seed Store in Charleston, the Landreths continued till 1862, when the real estate and stock of Seeds and Implements were confiscated by order of a Confederate Court. For this very serious loss the Landreths never received any compensation from the United States Government, though they might very properly have looked for it.

On the Landreth Virginia plantations are cultivated large breadths of Okra, Lima Beans, Egg Plant, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Lettuce, Onion, Collards, Kale, Cucumber, Parsnip, Tomato, Leek, Radish and many other vegetables, all for purposes of maturing seed.

Three (3) immense Seed Drying Houses have been erected, one 160 feet long by fifty feet wide and seventy feet high; the others not quite so large, but very spacious, and two practically designed Stables for the housing of numerous horses and mules. Two Agricultural Steam Engines are constantly employed, and the implements are as varied and numerous as would be seen at any Agricultural Exhibition, many of special construction and made at their own shops. The cost of field labor in the cultivation of these crops amounts to many thousands of dollars yearly; all wages being paid every Saturday night, an admirable plan for all concerned. The cost of Fertilizers, it is needless to say, amounts to a large sum.

The day laborers are all colored, and are found very tractable and satisfactory, many of them the equals of any farm laborers to be found in any country. The Landreths, on their various farms, employ Norwegians, Italians, Irish, but they find none better than the negroes.

The Superintendent and Foreman are skilled Jersey Truckers, graduates in vegetable culture under the intense system pursued in New Jersey, a State which produces to the acre four (4) times the money value produced by any State in the Union.

The general direction of all operations is under the strict supervision of the Landreths, who are thorough experts in everything pertaining to a knowledge of varieties, systems of cultivation, methods of harvesting and curing seeds, and handling of men.

The Landreths are not sensational Seedsmen issuing catalogues of impossible vegetables, but practical Vegetable Seed Farmers, whose recommendation can be received and whose advice upon gardening matters is worth a retainer in advance.—*The Virginia Citizen*, September 22, 1893.